

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 2, 6 and 10-13 are amended. Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 6 recites allowable subject matter.

The Office Action, in paragraph 1, indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on October 27, 2003 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the IDS submitted Japanese Patent JP-B2-A-27589 without an English-language translation. However, an English-language translation is not required as Applicant's disclosure, in paragraphs [0003] and [0004], provides a concise explanation of the relevance of the reference, as indicated in the IDS. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that this reference be considered and an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 included with the October 27, 2003 IDS be attached to the next Patent Office communication.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, objects to the specification for allegedly containing awkward sentence structures. Applicant submits a substitute specification that obviates this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are rejected, in paragraph 3, under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 13 are amended to obviate this rejection.

It is an object of the invention to provide a simulation apparatus and a method for storing operational information, in which the amount of data to be stored can be reduced on a large scale so that the load-in processing for storing data can be lightened, and memory means for storing data can be used efficiently (Applicant's disclosure, page 3, lines 3-8). In order to

attain the above objective, only data, when the setting operation is performed, is stored into the storage means as the event data (page 4, lines 1-3). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the pending claims produces a useful and tangible result, i.e., the amount of data to be stored can be significantly reduced. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 is rejected, in paragraph 4, under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 13 is amended to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are rejected, in paragraph 5, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,535,620 to Nichols in view of "The Design of History Mechanisms and Their Use in Collaborative Educational Simulations," by Catherine Plaisant, et al. (hereinafter "Plaisant"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 11, 12 and 13 recite, among other features, storing event data only when the setting operation of the data through the output data setting section is detected. The Office Action concedes this feature is not taught by Nichols. The Office Action, on page 7, relies on Plaisant to cure this deficiency of Nichols. The Office Action asserts that Plaisant teaches time stamps for historical data. The time stamps of Plaisant allow a user to locate and review a specific event in the data history, among the entire recorded data history. Plaisant teaches, on page 6, in the paragraph titled "Learing history design issues," that a complete records of all events may be recorded, but that such a record may be too large to be practical. As an alternative, Plaisant discloses that only minor actions, time stamps and outcomes may be recorded. However, Plaisant fails to teach storing data only when the setting operation of the data through the output data setting section is detected, as positively recited in claims 1, 11, 12 and 13.

For at least the above reasons, Nichols and Plaisant, in any permissible combination, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all the features recited in at least independent claims 1, 11, 12 and 13. Further, claims 2-8 and 10 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by the applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the subject matter of claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-13, in addition to the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 6, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Substitute Specification
Marked-up Copy of Original Specification

Date: April 11, 2007

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